

AMMUNITION—NAVAL SERVICE.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING

The report of the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, relative to the quantity and kinds of ammunition annually used in the naval service, &c.

JANUARY 24, 1845.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *January 21, 1845.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of a report from the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, containing the information called for by a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed on the 23d December, 1844.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. Y. MASON.

HON. JOHN W. JONES,
Speaker House of Representatives.

BUREAU OF ORDNANCE AND HYDROGRAPHY,
January 14, 1845.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 23d of December last, referred by you to this bureau, calling for information as to the quantity of ammunition of various kinds annually used in the naval service; also, what quantity has the service now on hand, and what quantity of the different kinds is deemed expedient or necessary to keep on hand to be in proper proportion to our other naval resources; I have the honor to state, that the quantity of ammunition of various kinds annually used in the navy, must of course depend upon the force in commission, and will vary as that is increased or diminished. The force

Blair & Rives, print.

estimated for, for the ensuing year, (viz : 10 frigates, 13 sloops, 7 brigs, 2 schooners, and 4 steamers,) and for gun practice on shore, will require an annual expenditure of about—

7,964 round shot;
1,400 shells;
9,364 cylinders; and
73,350 musket ball cartridges.

The average consumption of powder for the last four years, at sea and on shore, for all purposes, has been at the rate of 1,642 barrels, or 164,200 pounds, per annum. We have now on hand fit for use—

270,929 round shot;
21,346 shells;
7,609 stands of grape; and
1,900 barrels of powder.

The quantity of the different kinds of ammunition deemed expedient or necessary to be kept on hand, to be in proportion to our other naval resources, is as follows, viz :

200,000 round shot;
20,000 shells; and
5,000 barrels of powder.

All which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,
W. M. CRANE.

Hon. J. Y. MASON,
Secretary of the Navy.